

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195444

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PDIP

SUBJECT: PROPOSED BELGIAN DEMARCHE RE SEPTEMBER 11

1. BELGIAN DCM IN WASHINGTON, ALFRED CAHEN, CALLED ON COUNTRY DIRECTOR SEPTEMBER 4 TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE DEMARCHE TO GOC CONCERNING DIPLOMATIC CORPS ATTENDANCE AT CHIEF OF STATE PINOCHET'S SEPTEMBER 11 ADDRESS. CAHEN SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ASK WHETHER OUR EMBASSY WOULD PARTICIPATE IN A DEMARCHE TO GOC SUGGESTING THAT DIPLOMATIC CORPS NOT REPEAT NOT BE INVITED. HE MENTIONED DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN BELGIUM AND THE "DIFFICULTIES" THE GOB WOULD FACE IF THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR PARTICIPATED IN ANY SEPTEMBER 11 ACTIVITIES IN SANTIAGO, HOWEVER LOW KEY.

2. IN ANSWER TO COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S QUESTION, CAHEN SAID U.S. WAS FIRST COUNTRY GOB HAD APPROACHED ON THIS SUBJECT. HE STRONGLY IMPLIED SIMILAR APPROACHES WOULD BE MADE IN OTHER CAPITALS. COUNTRY DIRECTOR REPLIED THAT GIVEN THE EXISTENCE OF NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS HE COULD NOT SEE ON WHAT BASIS SUCH A DEMARCHE TO GOC COULD BE MADE. HE NOTED THAT ANY CHIEF OF STATE COULD INVITE THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO HEAR HIS ADDRESS AND WOULD EXPECT

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ATTENDANCE BARRING PHYSICAL ABSENCE OR ILLNESS. HE ADDED

THAT WHILE HE WAS NOT AWARE THAT AN INVITATION TO THE
DIPLOMATIC CORPS HAD BEEN EXTENDED FOR SEPTEMBER 11
ADDRESS, HE FELT CERTAIN U.S. AMBASSADOR WOULD ATTEND IF

INVITED, AS HE IMAGINED OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF DIPLO-
MATIC CORPS WOULD DO.

3. CAHEN ACKNOWLEDGED "EXTREME AWKWARDNESS" OF SUBJECT
AND ASKED WHETHER U.S. WOULD NOT AT LEAST ASSOCIATE
ITSELF WITH SUCH SUGGESTION BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE
DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO GOC. COUNTRY DIRECTOR REPLIED THAT
WHILE HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR U.S. AMBASSADOR IN SANTIAGO,
HE COULD NOT CONCEIVE OF ANY SUCH INSTRUCTION BEING SENT
TO HIM. FYI CAHEN WAS MOST APOLOGETIC AND OBVIOUSLY
EMBARRASSED WITH HIS MISSION END FYI. KISSINGER

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